

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7-21, 23-28 and 30-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 21, 23, 24 and 28 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 14, states that claim 7-20, 25-27 and 30-32 are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicants appreciate the allowance of these claims.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,642,135 to Noguchi et al. (hereinafter "Noguchi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Noguchi teaches a picture process for a video conference device that enables the display of an input picture to be switched even if a picture of a line drawing is displayed together with the input picture (Abstract). In Noguchi, the line drawing is overlaid over a color still image and there is no apparent other processing which is undertaken on either the picture image or the line drawing image other than that the display magnification of the document image may be changeable (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 7-55).

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, a first input means for inputting a photographic image; first memory means for recording said photographic image; second input means for inputting a line drawing image; second memory means for recording said line drawing; interpolation means for interpolating said line drawing recorded by said second memory means; pixel thinning means for performing pixel thinning on said photographic image recorded by said first memory means; an output means for outputting a superimposed image in which said interpolated line drawing image from said interpolation means is overlaid on said photographic image having undergone processing by said pixel thinning means.

Independent claims 21, 24 and 28 recite, among other features, similar steps and/or devices to those recited in claim 1. Noguchi neither discloses, nor would it have suggested, that, for example, the resolutions of the picture image and the line drawing are converted, and particularly that a picture image to which pixel thinning has been performed and an interpolated drawing are combined.

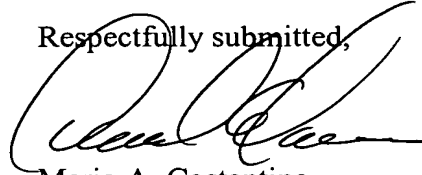
For at least the above reasons, Noguchi cannot be reasonably considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 21, 24 and 28. Additionally, dependent claims 2, 23 and 33-35 are also not anticipated, nor would they have been suggested, by Noguchi for at least the respective dependence of these claims on independent claims 1 and 21, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 33-35, in addition to the allowance of claims 7-20, 25-27 and 30-32, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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